



NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD ABUSE ARRESTS 5200 BLOCK SOUTH NEWCASTLE COURT

UPDATE – MARCH 14, 2013

On the morning of March 14, 2013, one of two twin girls transported to local area hospitals the previous day succumbed to her injuries. Detectives added the charge of 1st Degree Murder to the parents, Kristepher Benevidez and Monique Gaxiola. The other twin child remains in a local area hospital in serious condition, but is expected to survive.

Sergeant Chris Widmer – March 14, 2013

On March 13, 2013, at 2:29 p.m., officers from Operations Division South responded to a report of an 18-month old female that was not breathing. Personnel from the Tucson Fire Department arrived on scene prior to police arrival and immediately transported the child to a local area hospital for emergency treatment. Medical personnel notified police that the child had non-accidental injuries and her condition was life threatening. Officers secured the scene at the home and responded to the hospital to contact the parents. While officers at the home were securing the scene, they discovered a twin sister to the 18-month old victim as well as their 7-year old sister. They were located at a neighbor's house. The twin sister also had injuries that appeared non-accidental. She was transported to a local area hospital with serious injuries. The 7-year old sister had no obvious signs of injury.

Detectives from the Dependent Child Unit responded to continue the investigation. They determined that the father had been physically abusing the twin 18-month old sisters for an unknown period of time. The mother was aware of the abuse but did not report it. Both children suffered severe trauma from the abuse. The investigation continues as detectives work to determine how the twin girls received their injuries and how long the abuse was ongoing.

The parents were identified as 25-year old Kristepher Benavidez and 30-year old Monique Gaxiola. Both were booked into the Pima County Jail for 2 counts of Child Abuse. The investigation is ongoing and further charges are pending.

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Kristepher Benavidez



Monique Gaxiola

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